

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-49 are presented below, with claims 13-17, 30-34, and 42-49 pending. As shown below, claims 1-12, 18-29, and 35-41 have been canceled.

1. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A portable information terminal having an interface for connection to a master unit having a function to execute a program, comprising:

illegal copying prevention means for periodically determining whether legitimate information has been downloaded from the master unit or not, and if legitimate information has not been downloaded, making ineffective at least control inputs entered into the terminal,

said illegal copying prevention means comprising:

identification determining means for determining whether a source medium identification code is a predetermined source medium identification code or not;

wherein said source medium identification code identifies a source medium containing at least one game program executable in the terminal,

wherein said source medium identification code has been downloaded to the terminal from said source medium through the master unit, and

wherein one or more game programs of said at least one game program stored on said source medium has been downloaded from said source medium through the master unit and stored in the terminal.

14. (Original) A portable information terminal according to claim 13, wherein said illegal copying prevention means comprises means for making effective again control inputs entered into the terminal if legitimate information has been downloaded from the master unit after control inputs entered into the terminal have been made ineffective.

15. (Original) A portable information terminal according to claim 13, wherein said illegal copying prevention means comprises:

download monitoring means for registering the year, month, and date of an instance of downloading of data; and

periodic download determining means for periodically determining whether data has been down loaded or not.

16. (Previously Presented) A portable information terminal according to claim 15, wherein said download monitoring means comprises:

preprocessing means for storing the present year, month, and date in a first memory area;

download detecting means for detecting whether data has been downloaded or not; and

registering means for setting a flag indicative of the download if the downloaded source medium identification code is the predetermined source medium identification code and registering the present year, month, and date in a second memory area.

17. (Previously Presented) A portable information terminal according to claim 16, wherein said periodic download determining means comprises:

effective/ineffective determining means for determining whether the present year, month, and date stored in the first and second memory areas are effective or ineffective, and making at least control inputs ineffective if the stored present year, month, and date of ineffective;

elapsed time determining means for determining whether a predetermined period has elapsed or not on the basis of the present year, month, and date stored in the first and second memory areas; and

flag determining means for determining whether the flag has been set or not if the predetermined period has elapsed, making at least control inputs ineffective if the flag has not been set, and resetting the flag if the flag has been set.

18. – 29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) An entertainment system comprising:

an entertainment apparatus having a function to execute a program; and

a portable information terminal detachably connected to said entertainment apparatus and having an interface for being electrically connected to said entertainment apparatus;

said portable information terminal comprising:

illegal copying prevention means for periodically determining whether legitimate information has been downloaded from said entertainment apparatus or not, and if legitimate information has not been downloaded, making ineffective at least control inputs entered into said portable information terminal,

said illegal copying prevention means comprising:

identification determining means for determining whether a source medium identification code is a predetermined source medium identification code or not;

wherein said source medium identification code identifies a source medium containing at least one game program executable in said portable information terminal,

wherein said source medium identification code has been downloaded to said portable information terminal from said source medium through said entertainment apparatus, and

wherein one or more game programs of said at least one game program stored on said source medium has been downloaded from said source medium through said entertainment apparatus and stored in said portable information terminal.

31. (Original) An entertainment system according to claim 30, wherein said illegal copying prevention means comprises means for making effective again control inputs entered into said portable information terminal if legitimate information has been downloaded from said entertainment apparatus after control inputs entered into said portable information terminal have been made ineffective.

32. (Original) An entertainment system according to claim 30, wherein said illegal copying prevention means comprises:

download monitoring means for registering the year, month, and date of an instance of downloading of data; and

periodic download determining means for periodically determining whether data has been down loaded or not.

33. (Previously Presented) An entertainment system according to claim 32, wherein said download monitoring means comprises:

preprocessing means for storing the present year, month, and date in a first memory area;
download detecting means for detecting whether data has been downloaded or not;
registering means for setting a flag indicative of the download if the downloaded source medium identification code is the predetermined source medium identification code and registering the present year, month, and date in a second memory area.

34. (Previously Presented) An entertainment system according to claim 33, wherein said periodic download determining means comprises:

effective/ineffective determining means for determining whether the present year, month, and date stored in the first and second memory areas are effective or ineffective, and making at least control inputs ineffective if the stored present year, month, and date are ineffective;

elapsed time determining means for determining whether a predetermined period has elapsed or not on the basis of the present year, month, and date stored in the first and second memory areas; and

flag determining means for determining whether the flag has been set or not if the predetermined period has elapsed, making at least control inputs ineffective if the flag has not been set, and resetting the flag if the flag has been set.

35. – 41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A recording medium storing a program which can be executed by a portable information terminal having an interface for connection to a master unit which has a function to execute the program, said program comprising the steps of:

periodically determining whether legitimate information has been downloaded from the master unit or not;

if legitimate information has not been downloaded, making ineffective at least control inputs entered into the portable information terminal; and

determining whether a source medium identification code is a predetermined source medium identification code or not;

wherein said source medium identification code identifies a source medium containing at least one game program executable in the portable information terminal,

wherein said source medium identification code has been downloaded to the portable information terminal from said source medium through the master unit, and

wherein one or more game programs of said at least one game program has been downloaded from the source medium through the master unit and stored in the portable information terminal.

43. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 42, wherein said program further comprises the step of:

making effective again control inputs entered into said portable information terminal if legitimate information has been downloaded from the master unit after control inputs entered into said portable information terminal have been made ineffective.

44. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 42, wherein said program further comprises the steps of:

registering the year, month, and date of an instance of downloading of data; and
periodically determining whether data has been down loaded or not.

45. (Previously Presented) A recording medium according to claim 44, wherein said program further compromises the steps of:

storing the present year, month, and date in a first memory area;
detecting whether data has been downloaded or not; and
setting a flag indicative of the download if the downloaded source medium identification code is the predetermined source medium identification code and registering the present year, month, and date in a second memory area.--

46. (Previously Presented) A recording medium according to claim 45, wherein said program further comprises the steps of:

determining whether the present year, month, and date stored in the first and second memory areas are effective or ineffective, and making at least control input ineffective if the stored present year, month, and date are ineffective;

determining whether a predetermined period has elapsed or not on the basis of the present year, month, and date stored in the first and second memory areas; and
determining whether the flag has been set or not if the predetermined period has elapsed, making at least control inputs ineffective if the flag has not been set, and resetting the flag if the flag has been set.

47. (Previously Presented) A portable information terminal according to claim 13, wherein:

the portable information terminal includes a plurality of input buttons;

making control inputs ineffective includes making at least one of said input buttons ineffective such that information from pressing one of said input buttons while that input button is ineffective is ignored.

48. (Previously Presented) An entertainment system according to claim 30, wherein:

said portable information terminal includes a plurality of input buttons;

making control inputs ineffective includes making at least one of said input buttons ineffective such that information from pressing one of said input buttons while that input button is ineffective is ignored.

49. (Previously Presented) A recording medium according to claim 42, wherein:

making control inputs ineffective includes ignoring information from pressing an input button of the portable information terminal while that input button is ineffective.